GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5782
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Financial Assistance to Tour Operators
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken effective measures to enhance and develop tourism sector in the last five years;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of total amount spent, infrastructure created, institutions established, training provided in last five years, State-wise; and
(c) whether the Government is providing any financial incentives and support for public/private tourist industries and tour operators in the country and if so, the details thereof and the details of the support and incentives provided during the last five years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tourism has taken various effective measures to enhance and develop the tourism sector, which inter-alia, include the following:

i) Launching the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits.
ii) Launching the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage sites.
iii) Promoting India as a holistic tourism destination in the domestic and international markets.
iv) Launching e-Visa for citizens of 161 countries and offering free Pre-Loaded SIM Cards for tourists on e-Visa;
v) Developing and promoting 'Niche Tourism' products;
vi) Generating sufficient manpower to meet the requirements of the tourism and hospitality industry;
vii) Launching 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline; and
viii) Providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for fairs, festivals and tourism related events.

Details of projects sanctioned during the last five years under Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Schemes are given at Annexure.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism provided Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for an amount of Rs.526.48 Crore for infrastructure development in the hospitality sector. Seven State Institutes of Hotel Management and Four Food Craft Institutes became operational during this period. Under the Scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers a total of 3,25,149 persons were trained.

Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to tourism service providers approved by the Ministry of Tourism, under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme for promotion of domestic tourism in the overseas market.

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